

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates
[Hansard]

Legislative Assembly

TUESDAY, 28 AUGUST 1934

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QUEENSLAND PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES.

Legislative Assembly.

THIRD SESSION OF THE TWENTY-SIXTH PARLIAMENT

APPOINTED TO MEET

AT BRISBANE ON THE TWENTY-EIGHTH DAY OF AUGUST, IN THE TWENTY-FIFTH YEAR
OF THE REIGN OF HIS MAJESTY KING GEORGE V., IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD 1934.

TUESDAY, 28 AUGUST, 1934.

OPENING OF PARLIAMENT.

Pursuant to Proclamation of His Excellency the Governor, dated the 2nd August, 1934, appointing Parliament to meet this day for the despatch of business, the House met at 12 o'clock noon in the Legislative Assembly Chamber.

The Clerk read the Proclamation.

THE GOVERNOR'S OPENING SPEECH.

At noon His Excellency the Governor came in state to Parliament House, was announced by the Sergeant-at-Arms, and received by Mr. Speaker (Hon. G. Pollock) at the bar.

The members of the Assembly being seated,

His Excellency read the following Opening Speech:—

"GENTLEMEN OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,—

"It gives me great pleasure to meet you at the opening of this the third session of the twenty-sixth Parliament of Queensland.

"During the past twelve months, one of my principal duties has been to endeavour to gain personal knowledge of many of those parts of the State which I had not time to visit during the first year of my term of office as Governor.

"In addition to visits to many other centres, I have toured through the islands in the Torres Strait, where the dominion of Queensland extends to within three miles of New Guinea. The islanders are of a fine type, mentally and physically, and have become, under wise guidance, valuable citizens of this State. I have also travelled through the north-western shires of the State, and, with regard to that part of Queensland known as the Gulf country, no one, who has had any experience of it, can have anything but admiration for the spirit which animates those who live and work

there under conditions of great difficulty. The welcome which I, as the representative of His Majesty the King, have received in every part of the State has voiced, in no uncertain language, the loyalty of the people of Queensland.

"The people of Queensland are looking forward with keen anticipation to the visit to this State of His Majesty's son—His Royal Highness the Duke of Gloucester—to whom the warmest possible welcome is assured.

"Expenditure from the Consolidated Revenue Fund during the financial year ended 30th June, 1934, exceeded the receipts by £1,128,531. This is an improvement in the budgetary position of £426,000 compared with the previous year, and £947,000 in respect of the financial year 1931-32.

"The deficit for 1933-34 is a reduction of 27.39 per cent. on the deficit for 1932-33, and is greater than the percentage reductions in the revenue deficits of the other mainland States during the same period.

"It is gratifying to note that the improvement in the governmental budgetary position is indicative of the general economic progress which is now manifest throughout the State.

"The Queensland Business Index of the Bureau of Industry, for the three months ended June, 1934, records that business conditions now obtaining are better than at any period since 1929, and also that the volume of employment has considerably improved.

"World recovery, unfortunately, is being retarded by various countries adopting the policy generally known as 'economic nationalism,' or restricted output.

"During the recess, my advisers considered it desirable that the Leader of the Government should proceed to Great Britain for the purpose of investigating the nature and the trend of this phase of economy.

"The suggestions that had emanated from various authoritative quarters indicated that

the public anxiety in Queensland and Australia on this aspect was not without foundation.

"Proposals for the quantitative regulation of our exports to the United Kingdom market in particular aroused considerable misgivings, and my advisers felt that the economic position of Queensland should be clearly stated and explained through the appropriate channels.

"The Premier's mission was productive of good results, and, in London, he received assurances from responsible Ministers that the British Government had no intention of arbitrarily imposing such a policy, and that the agreements made with the Dominions at Ottawa would be continued in their entirety.

"My advisers are strongly of the opinion that stability and progress can only be achieved by promoting and increasing solvent demand, and not by limiting the capacity of the people to share in the increased productivity now available to mankind.

"During the past financial year, governmental activity for the provision of normal avenues of employment has been vigorously pursued. The works so constructed represent assets of value to the State and provide channels through which a large volume of labour—which would otherwise be a charge upon the Unemployment Relief Fund—is usefully absorbed.

"My advisers will continue this policy during the present financial year. It will be recalled that subsequent Premiers' Conferences have reaffirmed the principle laid down at the Premiers' Conference held in Canberra and in Sydney in June-July, 1932, that increased funds should be made available to Governments for works and employment purposes with the object of stimulating business activity generally.

"Among the major works projects to be commenced during the present financial year will be the Central Bridge over the Brisbane River. In pursuance of the powers conferred by 'The Bureau of Industry Act of 1933,' a committee of the Bureau has been appointed to be the Bridge Board for the construction and operation of this bridge as a toll undertaking. The general design of the bridge has been approved. The capital cost is estimated to be £1,600,000, and it is anticipated that the bridge will be paid for in twenty years from the time of its opening. The Bridge Board has also been authorised as the constructing agent of the Bureau of Industry to proceed with certain improvements to the river for the mitigation of floods and the better accommodation of shipping. Proposals will be submitted to amend the Bureau of Industry Act to clarify the position of the Bureau concerning these works. A commencement will also be made during the year with the construction of outer harbour facilities for the port of Mackay.

"The aggregate amount of Government funds, through which employment has been promoted either directly or indirectly, expended during the past financial year totals £4,921,476, as compared with £4,610,184 during 1932-33, and £2,602,020 during 1931-32.

"Expenditure from the Unemployment Relief Fund amounted to £1,903,888 during the year. My advisers have considerably broadened the basis of eligibility for such

assistance, and have removed hardships which previously obtained.

"The banana settlements initiated in the preceding year, on which 100 unemployed families were placed on suitable acreages in localities recommended by departmental experts, are proceeding satisfactorily on well-defined lines, and my advisers are hopeful that, with a continuation of the present rate of progress, these settlers will be permanently established in this industry.

"Approximately £17,000 was expended on short-term advances to necessitous cotton farmers in the Upper Burnett and Callide Valleys. These advances assisted the settlers in the production of crops to a value of at least £90,000, which would otherwise not have been possible.

"Assistance in the form of ration relief and fertilizer and other requirements has also been rendered to farmers growing tobacco in the northern and southern portions of the State, and leaf of good quality has been harvested as the result of such assistance.

"In its social welfare work the Government has again helped considerably to alleviate distress arising out of unemployment, in connection with rent relief and extra ration assistance in cases of maternity and sickness in the family, in addition to the provision of food and shelter in necessitous cases.

"The establishment of the Farm Training School for boys at St. Lucia and the scheme for rural training of youths direct by the farmer, both of which were launched last year, cannot achieve their real objective unless the parents themselves assist the Government by encouraging their boys to seize the opportunity so afforded.

"Nevertheless it is gratifying to record that the total number of boys who have been allotted to farmers is 620, in addition to which the number of boys actually placed in permanent farm work through the co-operation and assistance of Riverview Training Farm is 256.

"The action of my advisers in placing the Department of Public Lands and its sub-departments under a single administrative authority—the Land Administration Board—has both accelerated the work and led to generally increased efficiency. Each section is now transacting more business than was ever previously attempted.

"The revenue of the department continues to be buoyant. Last year it was £1,307,897, being an increase of £114,284 over the revenue of the previous year. An area of 5,075,319 acres was selected during the year.

"The wool industry has experienced a reasonably successful year, both in regard to seasonal conditions and to the prices obtained for the product. Recent prices are lower than those which prevailed at the concluding sales of last wool season. There seems reason for believing, however, that this may be no more than one of the fluctuations of the industry, and that prices may again harden as the selling season advances.

"The successful trial shipments of chilled beef to the United Kingdom market, initiated by the Queensland Meat Industry Board, have demonstrated beyond doubt that Queensland can satisfactorily cater for this trade. Various meatworks throughout the State are being altered to conform with the requirements of the chilling process, and the

requisite facilities and space in oversea ships for the carriage of this cargo are available. In view of the fact that the product sent abroad in the chilled state merely replaces the equivalent of frozen beef, it is earnestly hoped that no restrictions will be placed upon the quantities that can be exported in this manner. Opportunity was taken by the Premier in London of representing fully to the British Government the position of the State's beef export trade. Trial shipments are being continued, and my advisers will use every effort to further the development of this trade, which will mean much in the rehabilitation of the beef cattle industry.

"The Government is giving special attention to the preparation of lands for new settlement in North Queensland. Access roads are being constructed to serve a total area of 40,000 acres of Crown lands situated in the Mackay and Innisfail districts. At the present time 400 men are employed by the Land Administration Board on the construction of these roads, and a sum of £47,000 has already been expended on the work. The road construction will be pushed ahead with all possible speed, so that these lands will be made available for settlement within the ensuing twelve months.

"A total sum of £366,585 has been loaned to 3,472 landholders under the rural loans development scheme. As many as 9,900 unemployed workers have been benefited by the distribution of these funds.

"The action of the Government in making subsidised loans available to local authorities for useful public works has led to a great increase in the provision of town water supplies, whereby the convenience of the people in townships throughout the State will be served as well as public health safeguarded. The funds approved by the Government for the construction of such works amount to £532,000, of which £318,000 had been spent at the 30th June, 1934.

"The year just concluded was a record one for forestry activities, both in the direction of the sales of Crown logs and in the acreage of land brought under forest plantations.

"The sum expended in reforestation works during 1933-34 was £70,000—the largest amount expended in any one year on this activity in Queensland.

"It is gratifying to record that the timber industry is now providing more employment than has been the case for many years. An index to the improvement in this industry is the increased revenue from royalty charges, which, notwithstanding the reductions in such charges, has increased from £78,155 during 1931-32 to £166,878 during 1933-34.

"My advisers propose to continue the policy of co-operation with the timber industry, and also a vigorous reforestation programme as a means of affording employment in both urban and rural areas.

"The organisation of the sandalwood industry will be considered during the session.

"A record production of 613,130 tons of Queensland raw sugar was achieved for the 1933 season, being approximately 50,000 tons greater than the previous highest output, which was reached in 1931.

"The approximate value of the season's output was £10,318,000, of which £2,496,000 was derived from the sugar sold overseas.

"During the season 124,043,110 lb. of butter and 13,800,000 lb. approximately of cheese were manufactured.

"Although the prices ruling for dairy products on the overseas market during the period remained at low levels, the institution of the Australian stabilisation scheme has helped to relieve the position. Its benefit has already been reflected in the factory payments to suppliers.

"Allied with dairying, mixed farming, and other branches of agriculture, pig-raising has developed into an industry of major importance to Queensland, with an annual value of approximately £2,000,000.

"To meet the requirements of the frozen pork export trade, special attention has been given to the improvement of suitable breeds of pigs. A subsidy—refund scheme—was devised for the purpose of assisting farmers to purchase better stock of the breeds preferred for the production of pork for export, and this was taken advantage of by a considerable number of farmers in widely separated districts of the State.

"The Tobacco Industry Protection Act, passed last session, is now operating, and will have a beneficial effect for the welfare of the industry, particularly in regard to the control of pests and disease.

"A record yield of cotton has been produced during this season, the quantity received at the ginneries by mid-July totalling approximately 22,000,000 lb. of seed cotton, which is nearly 4,000,000 lb. better than the previous record; and a large quantity of cotton has still to be picked. The average yield per acre will be appreciably higher than for many seasons, and the returns will greatly improve the financial condition of a large number of growers.

"Liberal financial assistance to primary producers continues to be provided through the agencies of the Agricultural Bank and the Rural Assistance Board. For the last financial year, advances totalling £261,567 were granted in respect to 1,485 applications.

"Co-operative marketing of primary products is operating successfully in Queensland, and, during the year, at the request of the producers of plywood and veneer, a pool was formed to control the marketing of that commodity. This brings the number of pools controlled by commodity boards in Queensland up to sixteen.

"The aggregate value of products subject to organised marketing in Queensland at present amounts to approximately £17,000,000.

"Mining is being developed along sound lines, and the policy of my advisers has undoubtedly led to a great revival in prospecting. Increased British interest in the industry is a hopeful sign. The announcement of the plan to develop concessions in North Queensland by a British company with a capital of £600,000 is an indication of an increasing interest in the development of Queensland's gold and other mineral resources. For some time a number of other companies have been negotiating for other areas, and before long there should be important new developments in the mining industry.

"Queensland is now the second largest gold-producing State in the Commonwealth. For the twelve months ended 30th June last, the gold yield was 101,694 fine oz.,

valued at £431,968, compared with 55,246 fine oz., valued at £234,668, produced during the previous financial year.

"Operations at Mount Isa are justifying the confidence previously expressed in the future of this world-famed silver-lead field, and steps are being taken to produce zinc concentrates in addition to silver-lead bullion.

"Queensland, in conjunction with the Commonwealth Government and the Government of Western Australia, is participating in a combined aerial, geological, and geophysical survey of the northern portions of the Commonwealth. The survey is estimated to cost £150,000 and to occupy a period of three years. Queensland and Western Australia will contribute £37,500 each, and the Commonwealth £75,000. It is hoped, by aerial survey, followed by comprehensive geological inquiry and geophysical research, to provide valuable data which will be of advantage in regard to the future development of the mining industry in this State.

"The Main Roads Commission at 30th June last had completed nearly 2,700 miles of road and approximately 45,500 lineal feet of bridges.

"During the year a total amount of £1,078,687 was expended on main roads work throughout the State. Ample funds will be made available for the continuation of this extensive road construction policy.

"A Bill will be submitted to Parliament this session for the amendment of 'The Main Roads Acts, 1920 to 1929.' The measure will provide, *inter alia*, for further relief to local authorities—both for permanent works and maintenance expenditure. The terms of repayment are to be liberalised, and the Commission is to be given power to develop more extensively the State's existing and potential tourist resorts.

"A system of improvement to secondary roads is to be introduced and assistance is to be provided for the opening up and development of roads to mining fields or potential mineral supplies.

"In the financial year just closed 341 workers' dwellings were completed and 120 were under construction at the 30th June. The total amount advanced in respect of all housing schemes administered by the State Advances Corporation was £267,000.

"For the same period the sum of £376,000 was expended by the Department of Public Works on building activities. A commencement was made with the extensive additions to the Department of Agriculture and also with the additional block included in the Anzac Square proposals. The programme envisaged for the current year will enable the department's activities to be continued on an enlarged scale throughout the State.

"Pursuant to the amendments last session of 'The Electric Light and Power Act, 1896' an investigation is now being undertaken into the prices and methods of charge of electric authorities.

"The operations of the Financial Emergency Relief legislation, including the Mortgagees Relief Act and the Lessees' Relief Act, have been continued during the year. Persons obtaining furniture and other necessities by means of hire-purchase agreements have been protected under the Hire-purchase Agreement Act of last session

against harsh re-possession of the articles and against loss of moneys paid under the agreement.

"The statute safeguards not alone the hirer but the just rights of the other party to the hiring agreement. A similar principle underlies the Contracts of Sale of Land Act which has been brought into operation recently. The Government will closely observe the effect of this and kindred legislation.

"My advisers have under consideration the review of the law dealing with landlord and tenant. The existing law obtaining in this respect is antiquated and is, in a measure, contrary to the economic relations and considerations of the present day. A Bill dealing with the matter will be submitted and will be based on principles equitable to all parties concerned.

"Educational activities will be extended by the provision of further Rural schools and vocational classes. The two manual training cars and the two domestic science cars, which were put out of commission as a result of financial stringency, are now being refitted and recommissioned for service, so that the children in the more remote portions of the State may not suffer any educational disadvantage in comparison with the children in the larger centres of population. During the year 2,802 scholarships to secondary schools were granted to qualifying candidates.

"The question of establishing dental clinics at the more important hospitals has received the attention of the Home Department in co-operation with local hospital boards. The application of this service will enable the dental inspection staff of the medical branch of the Department of Public Instruction to be made available for work in the more remote parts of the State. The new women's hospital at Brisbane is now under construction. The child welfare scheme is being extended by the establishment of branch clinics in certain country districts which have hitherto not enjoyed the benefits of this service.

"During the recess the Home Secretary made an extensive inspection of the aboriginals' schools and settlements in the Torres Strait and the aboriginal mission stations in the Gulf of Carpentaria. As a result of this investigation legislation will be introduced to enable the Department for the Protection of Aboriginals to exercise more effective measures for the care of natives and half-castes.

"The reorganisation of the police force will promote efficiency and raise the general standard of the service. Preparatory work in connection with the establishment of a prison farm has been initiated. Preliminary steps have been taken for the establishment of a home for mental deficient. This institution will be designed upon the most modern principles.

"During the year 1933-34 railway revenue increased by £252,674, compared with the figure for the previous year, and working expenses increased by £159,547. 'The Railway Superannuation Acts, 1930 to 1932, Repeal Act of 1933,' provided for the dissolution of the superannuation scheme and for the refundment of the contributions to employees at any time when, in the opinion of the Governor in Council, the finances of the State permitted. The first moiety of the refund was made in March last, and action is

now in hand for the repayment of the final amount, which will also include interest at Savings Bank rate.

"The increase in rail traffic last year enabled all employees in the various Railway Workshops throughout the State to be placed on full time.

"Authority has been given for the construction in the Ipswich Railway Shops of six locomotives and three up-to-date trains for the Brisbane-Townsville-Cairns mail service. A contract has also been let for the construction of six locomotives.

"The concessions in rail freight which were in operation have been continued and, in the case of store cattle forwarded from buffalo fly areas in train loads, were increased from 20 per cent. to 30 per cent. for such cattle when conveyed distances of 600 miles and over.

"The public service continues to discharge its duties loyally and efficiently. My advisers consider that the fixing of salaries and wages and conditions of employment of Crown employees should still be left to the Industrial Court. They further consider that the provisions of the Financial Emergency Act should cease to apply to any award made by the Court on or after 1st October, 1934, in respect of such salaries and wages not exceeding £500 per annum, but that in respect of salaries and wages exceeding £500 per annum, the Financial Emergency Acts should continue to apply. My advisers propose to introduce such legislation as may be necessary to give effect to these proposals.

"The Estimates for the current financial year which are now being framed will be submitted to you at an early date, and will be found to have been prepared with due regard to economy and the requirements of the State.

"Among other proposals which will be brought before Parliament, you will be invited to give consideration to the following measures:—

- A Bureau of Industry Act Amendment Bill;
- An Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act Amendment Bill;
- An Apprentices and Minors Acts Amendment Bill;
- A Railways Acts Amendment Bill;
- A Fish Supply Act Amendment Bill;
- A Primary Producers' Organisation and Marketing Acts Amendment Bill;
- A Primary Producers' Co-operative Associations Acts Amendment Bill;
- A Dairy Produce Acts Amendment Bill;
- A Distress for Rent Bill;
- A Land Acts Amendment Bill;
- A Main Roads Acts Amendment Bill;
- A National Parks and State Forests Bill;
- An Inkerman Irrigation Board (Rates and Charges) Bill;
- A Sandalwood Bill;
- A City of Mackay Town Planning and Other Town Planning Schemes Approval Bill;
- An Aborigines Act Amendment Bill.

"To these and all other matters which may be submitted to you I invite your

earnest consideration, and I pray that the blessing of Divine Providence may attend your labours."

His Excellency then left the Chamber.

At 12.29 p.m.,

Mr. SPEAKER: I shall resume the chair at 2.30 p.m.

At 2.30 p.m.,

Mr. SPEAKER resumed the chair.

BY-ELECTIONS DURING RECESS— NEW MEMBERS.

STANLEY AND EAST TOOWOOMBA.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have to report that, consequent on the death of Ernest Lancelot Grimstone, Esquire, on 22nd October last, I, on the 17th November, issued my writ for the election of a member to serve in this House for the Electoral District of Stanley, and that the said writ has been duly returned to me with a certificate endorsed thereon by the Returning Officer of the election of Roy Mackenzie Bell, Esquire, to serve as such member.

Mr. Bell was then introduced, took the oath of allegiance, and subscribed the roll.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have to report that during the recess I received from the Registrar-General a letter informing me of the death, on 1st June, 1934, of Thomas Robert Roberts, Esquire, lately serving in the Legislative Assembly of Queensland as member for the Electoral District of East Toowoomba.

I have to inform the House that, during the recess, in accordance with the direction of the 10th section of the "Legislative Assembly Act of 1867," I issued my writ for the election of a member to serve in the Legislative Assembly for the Electoral District of East Toowoomba, in the room of Thomas Robert Roberts, Esquire, deceased, and that the said writ has been duly returned to me with a certificate endorsed thereon by the Returning Officer of the election of James Douglas Annand, Esquire, to serve as such member.

Mr. Annand was then introduced, took the oath of allegiance, and subscribed the roll.

DEATH OF MR. T. R. ROBERTS.

MOTION OF CONDOLENCE.

The PREMIER (Hon. W. Forgan Smith, *Mackay*), by leave, without notice, moved—

"That Mr. Speaker be requested to convey to the widow and family of the late Thomas Robert Roberts, Esquire, formerly member for Drayton and Toowoomba, and East Toowoomba, and Chairman of Committees in the twenty-fifth Parliament of Queensland, the sympathy that the members of this House feel for them in their recent sad bereavement."

Mr. MOORE (*Aubigny*) [2.35 p.m.]: I deeply regret that it should be necessary to rise to second the motion moved by the Premier. I have been associated with Mr. Roberts in this House for nearly nineteen years; I was associated with him for many years prior to my coming here. I think the whole House learned to appreciate the services that Mr. Roberts rendered and the work that he did. He was always sure of

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his facts and was outspoken whenever he deemed it to be in the best interests of the State. We sympathise very much with his family in their bereavement.

The motion was carried by hon. members standing in silence.

APPOINTMENT OF OFFICERS OF PARLIAMENT.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have to report that, following the vacancy occurring through the retirement of Charles Arrowsmith Bernays, Esquire, I.S.O., who for thirteen years occupied the position of Clerk of the Parliament, that office has been filled by the appointment of Mr. Thomas Dickson, lately Clerk-Assistant and Sergeant-at-Arms. Mr. Roy Leslie Dunlop, lately second Clerk-Assistant, succeeds Mr. Dickson as Clerk-Assistant and Sergeant-at-Arms.

Whereupon Mr. Dickson, having produced his Commission, took the necessary oath of office. Mr. Dunlop produced his Commission and took the necessary oath of allegiance.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have to report that following the vacancy on the staff of the State Reporting Bureau caused by the death of Mr. Walter Herbert Smith, the following appointments have been made:—

Mr. Charles Theodore Wood, to be Acting Chief Reporter.

Mr. Lewis Percival Waller, to be Acting Deputy Chief Reporter.

ELECTIONS TRIBUNAL.

JUDGE FOR 1934.

Mr. SPEAKER announced the receipt of a letter from His Honour the Chief Justice, Sir James Blair, intimating that the Honourable Mr. Justice E. A. Douglas would be the judge to preside at the sittings of the Elections Tribunal for the year 1934.

PANEL OF TEMPORARY CHAIRMEN.

Mr. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the requirements of Standing Order No. 13, I hereby nominate the following members to form the panel of Temporary Chairmen for the present session:—

William Thomas King, Member for the Electoral District of Maree;

John O'Keefe, Member for the Electoral District of Cairns;

David Alexander Gledson, Member for the Electoral District of Ipswich;

Hugh McDiarmid Russell, Member for the Electoral District of Hamilton;

Vivian Hoyles Tozer, Member for the Electoral District of Gympie.

PAPERS PRINTED DURING RECESS.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have to report that the following papers were ordered to be printed and circulated during the recess, in accordance with the resolution of Parliament passed by both Houses during the session of 1901:—

Report on Recommendations by the Special Committee appointed to

Investigate and Report upon Brisbane Water Supply and Flood Prevention;

Report of Queensland Delegation to Eastern Countries on Investigations into the Possibilities of New or Extended Trade for Queensland;

Report of the Royal Commission appointed to Inquire into Certain Matters relating to the Wheat and Flour Industries of Queensland.

PAPERS.

The following papers were laid on the table:—

Regulation, dated 10th May, 1934, under "The Explosives Act of 1906."

Regulation, dated 12th July, 1934, under "The Navigation Acts, 1876 to 1930."

Regulation, dated 1st February, 1934, under "The Workers' Compensation Acts, 1916 to 1929."

Regulations, dated 19th July, 1934, under "The Workers' Compensation (Lead Poisoning, Mount Isa) Act of 1933."

Orders in Council, dated 7th December, 1933, 15th March and 16th August, 1934, under "'The Railway Superannuation Acts, 1930 to 1932,' Repeal Act of 1933."

Order in Council, dated 8th February, 1934, under "The Succession and Probate Duties Act of 1904."

Orders in Council, dated 1st February and 26th April, 1934, under "The Workers' Compensation Acts, 1916 to 1929."

Orders in Council, dated 3rd May and 29th June, 1934, under "The Income (Unemployment Relief) Tax Acts, 1930 to 1932."

Statements of Certain Insurance Companies under "The Life Assurance Companies Act of 1901."

Orders in Council under "The Supreme Court Act of 1921."

Proclamation, dated 7th December, 1933, under "The Justices Act of 1886."

Proclamation, dated 14th December, 1933, under "The Trade Coupons Act of 1933."

Proclamation and Regulations, dated 5th April, 1934, under "The Hire-purchase Agreement Act of 1933."

Proclamation, Regulations, and Orders in Council under "The Contracts of Sale of Land Act of 1933."

Order in Council, dated 21st December, 1933, under "The Purchasers of Homes Relief Acts, 1930 to 1932."

Order in Council, dated 21st December, 1933, under "The Financial Emergency Act of 1931."

Order in Council, dated 21st December, 1933, under "The Lessees' Relief Acts, 1931 to 1932."

Order in Council, dated 21st December, 1933, under "The Mortgagees Relief Acts, 1931 to 1932."

Regulations, dated 11th January, 1934, under "The Auctioneers and Commission Agents Acts, 1922 to 1924."

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- Regulation, dated 13th April, 1934, under "The Coroners Act of 1930."
- Regulation, dated 21st June, 1934, under "The Public Curator Acts, 1915 to 1926."
- Proclamation and Regulations, dated 14th December, 1933, under "The Money Lenders Acts, 1916 to 1933."
- Regulations, dated 12th July, 1934, under "The Statistical Returns Act of 1896."
- Orders in Council, dated 12th July and 9th August, 1934, under "The Magistrates Courts Act of 1921."
- Forty-ninth Annual Report of the Union Trustee Company of Australia, Limited.
- Regulations, dated 14th December, 1933, and 1st February, 1934, under "The Motor Spirit Vendors Act of 1933."
- Regulations, dated 8th and 15th February, 1934, under "The Electric Light and Power Acts, 1896 to 1933."
- Amended Regulations, dated 7th December, 1933, under "The State Advances Corporation Buildings Improvement Act of 1932."
- Contract and General Conditions of Contract, dated 13th April, 1934, under "The State Advances Act of 1916."
- Regulations under the following Acts:—
- "The Dairy Products Stabilisation Act of 1933."
 - "The Diseases in Plants Acts, 1929 to 1930."
 - "The Diseases in Stock Acts, 1915 to 1931."
 - "The Fruit and Vegetables Act of 1927."
 - "The Fruit Marketing Organisation Acts, 1923 to 1930."
 - "The Pig Industry Act of 1933."
 - "The Primary Producers' Organisation and Marketing Acts, 1926 to 1932."
 - "The Slaughtering Act of 1898."
 - "The Sugar Experiment Stations Acts, 1900 to 1923."
 - "The Tobacco Industry Protection Act of 1933."
 - "The Veterinary Medicines Act of 1933."
 - "The Wheat Pool Acts, 1920 to 1930."
- Orders in Council under—
- "The Banana Industry Protection Act of 1929."
 - "The Dairy Products Stabilisation Act of 1933."
 - "The Diseases in Plants Acts, 1929 to 1930."
 - "The Tobacco Industry Protection Act of 1933."
- Proclamations under—
- "The Dairy Products Stabilisation Act of 1933."
 - "The Diseases in Plants Acts, 1929 to 1930."
 - "The Pig Industry Act of 1933."
 - "The Tobacco Industry Protection Act of 1933."
 - "The Veterinary Medicines Act of 1933."

GOVERNOR'S OPENING SPEECH.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have to report that His Excellency the Governor has this day delivered a Speech to Parliament, of which, for greater accuracy, I have obtained a copy. I hope hon. members will take the Speech as read.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

ADDRESS IN REPLY.

OPENING DAY.

Mr. GAIR (*South Brisbane*) [2.48 p.m.], who was received with Government cheers, said: I beg to move—

"That the following address be presented to the Governor in reply to the Speech delivered by His Excellency in opening this, the third session of the twenty-sixth Parliament of Queensland:—

'May it Please Your Excellency,—

'We, His Majesty's loyal and dutiful subjects, the Members of the Legislative Assembly of Queensland in Parliament assembled, desire to assure Your Excellency of our continued loyalty and affection towards the Throne and Person of our Most Gracious Sovereign, and to tender our thanks to Your Excellency for the Speech with which you have been pleased to open the present session.

'The various measures to which Your Excellency has referred, and all other matters that may be brought before us, will receive our most careful consideration, and it shall be our earnest endeavour so to deal with them that our labours may tend to the advancement and prosperity of the State.'

I desire to acknowledge the privilege conferred upon me in being asked to move the Address in Reply to His Excellency's Speech to-day; I sincerely thank the House for this expression of its confidence in me. The Speech delivered by the Governor to-day was pleasing and very encouraging to all who had the privilege of hearing it. It reported that very much had been achieved in the rehabilitation of Queensland and the alleviation of the evil of unemployment. It also recorded that the Government, in the interests of Queensland and its people, intended to pursue that policy of progress that had brought about these beneficial results.

Here I desire to voice a welcome to the Hon. the Premier on his safe return to Queensland, happily restored to his accustomed health and vigour.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

Mr. GAIR: Detailed reference to his work overseas is not possible at the moment; but I wish to record my tribute to its excellence and effectiveness. Wherever the Premier went in Great Britain he impressed the people, not simply by his undoubted political insight, but also by the sincerity and single-mindedness with which he pursued the common good of Queensland and of Australia. In him Australia has an able and trustworthy counsellor, an impartial administrator, and a political leader endowed with statesmanship of a very high order.

Mr. MAXWELL: Somebody has been pulling your leg.

Mr. Gair.]

Mr. GAIR: The hon. member has been pulling his own leg. It is pleasing to me to note that my opinion regarding our worthy Premier is shared by many of his political opponents, for I am able to produce a few excerpts, which I shall read, from Australian newspapers which cannot be said to be partial to the Labour movement. The "Daily Telegraph" of Sydney, for 9th June, 1934, has the following to say:—

"Mr. Forgan Smith, Premier of Queensland, is in England, specially on behalf of his own State, but the purposes of his mission are of interest to all Australia. He has justified his journey and has already shown himself to be something more than a successful politician taking an opportunity to go on tour."

The same newspaper in its issue of 11th August, 1934, said—

"Mr. Forgan Smith, Premier of Queensland, is back from his London journey, and reached Sydney yesterday. During his eight weeks in Great Britain he did undeniably good work on Australia's behalf. Mr. Smith doughtily resisted the British quota restrictions in themselves and urged the existing preferences in dairy products and sugar. His statement on Dominion claims in English speeches and press articles were as succinct as anything that has been published and he may be set down as a Premier who certainly did not waste his State's time and money in a politician's conventional trip to London."

Those are extracts from a paper which is distinctly Tory in its policy, and it is pleasing to me, as a member of the Queensland Labour Party, to note such expressions of our political opponents regarding our worthy Leader and Premier.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

Mr. GAIR: The hon. gentleman and his Government assumed office at the most difficult period of this State's history. His influence was immediately felt throughout Australia by his securing an amendment of the Premiers' Plan. That amendment definitely enforced recognition of the duty of the Governments of the Commonwealth and the States to provide work and wages for their unemployed citizens. That amendment was vitally necessary also to direct attention to the urgent need for positive ameliorative action in the relief of the multitudes who were suffering as a result of the negative policies of the Lyons and Moore Governments. It was also a timely warning to Australia that something more than wage reduction, the reduction of Government expenditure, and the reduction in the amounts of the pensions of widows and orphans, was necessary to stop the drift to economic disaster. It was an acknowledgment forced upon the Loan Council that other people in the community besides those of the moneyed classes possessed rights which required to be considered and safeguarded. On the election of the present Government the calamitous policy of the Moore Government was immediately thrown into the discard. The result has been disclosed in the Speech delivered by His Excellency to-day in this Chamber. True, the Moore Government cannot be held responsible for the depression, but by its callous and mistaken policy it aggravated the crisis. However, the

Moore Government is now dead and buried. No doubt its members desire that its record be buried with it also. Fortunately for Queensland, however, that record is not forgotten. It is but too well remembered and is a warning to the people of this State never again to entrust its destinies to political incompetents and administrative mediocrities.

The Speech of His Excellency has shown distinctly a renewal of confidence in Queensland. This confidence comes again with the return to power of the Labour Government, and this confidence will remain so long as this State is under a Labour Government. The economic condition of Queensland to-day is largely due to the foresight and capacity of the present Government which, in spite of the world depression, have conferred substantial benefits on the people. The economic improvement is not a matter of imagination. It is demonstrated by indisputable facts and figures. Take the Budget position of Queensland. In comparison with the year 1931-32, which was the last year of the Moore regime, there is an improvement to-day amounting to £947,000. This improvement has been effected notwithstanding that additional benefits have been given to the unemployed of our State and in spite of the increased expenditure on unemployed relief measures. The position, therefore, was not improved at the expense of the workers of Queensland. Unlike their predecessors in office the present Government did not indulge in a wage-slashing campaign. They did not increase the hours of labour or adopt a policy of retrenchment of Crown employees. They did not curtail educational facilities or reduce allowances to widows and orphans, and they did not in any way interfere detrimentally with our social services. The Government were pleased to reduce the working week from forty-eight hours to forty-four hours, a move which proved to be of great benefit to a large number of workers in Queensland, especially Crown employees, who, as a result of economic conditions were being compelled to work short time. The reduction in the working week had the effect of increasing the hourly rate, which undoubtedly was a benefit to a large number of workers. In addition, the Government restored the cut that had been made in allowances paid to widows and orphans. Increased subsidies were granted to public hospitals and other worthy institutions labouring in our midst for the sick and the aged. Automatic salary increases were paid to Crown employees.

When one pauses to consider the tragic financial position in Queensland when the present Government assumed office one will readily recognise and appreciate the gigantic task which confronted this Government and one will have a better appreciation of the improvements which have been effected. Burdensome legacies were left to the present Government by the Nationalist Government, whose Premier, prior to the election of 1932, pessimistically although candidly admitted that the State was on the verge of bankruptcy. He had indeed left his State in a financial morass. One can easily understand the present Leader of the Opposition, the then Premier of the State, uttering the doleful warning that the State was on the verge of bankruptcy. Let us review the budgetary figures of the State under the Moore regime. In 1928-29, the last year of the McCormack Labour Government, the

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deficit was £165,957. We clearly remember that at the 1929 elections hon. members opposite said that the financial position of Queensland was in jeopardy and that it called for a sound financial policy. They held themselves up as being the party competent to effect that improvement. This is how it was done: In 1929-30, the first year of their administration, the deficit increased to £723,185. In 1930-31, the deficit again rose to £842,044. Last, but not least, in 1931-32 the deficit for Queensland rose to £2,075,103, or an increase of 146.45 per cent. over that of the previous year. That is how hon. members opposite controlled the destinies of the State and sought to correct the financial position!

I should like to draw special attention to the deficit for the financial year 1931-32, so that hon. members will appreciate the tremendous task that had to be undertaken by the present Government, and so that they will recognise the vast amount of work that was entailed in effecting the improvement which has reduced the deficit by approximately £1,000,000. It proves that the policy of the party opposite, which was one of utter starvation and privation, led to the impoverishment of the people.

For example, the Savings Bank deposits made in one year decreased by £4,800,000 in 1931-1932 as compared with the deposits made in 1928-1929. Does that indicate wise administration? Does it indicate that the Government of the State were acting in the best interests of Queensland and the people? Certainly not. I am pleased to say as against that, that since Labour has been in power there has been an upward trend, that confidence has been restored. Business is now in a better position than under the Moore regime. Let us take the Savings Bank deposits in Queensland at the present time. The latest figures, supplied in the early part of this month, showed that the bank deposits in Queensland increased last year by 5.9 per cent. That was the largest percentage increase recorded in any State in Australia. It is a crushing reply to the slanders uttered against the Labour Party and the Labour Government of this State. In addition, we must not overlook the fact that these deposits increased in their purchasing power by approximately 27 per cent.

This economic improvement is not mere imagination. I will furnish hon. members with figures proving definitely that prosperity has been restored. The Queensland business index for June, 1934, discloses an improvement of 12 per cent. over the corresponding period in 1932, which was of course shortly after the Moore Government were driven back to their rightful place on the Opposition benches and before the work of this Government could be felt. For the same period bank clearances in Brisbane increased by 16.24 per cent., while real property business improved by 11.62 per cent., and the Queensland share price index rose by no less than 36.83 per cent. These are undisputable facts, although, of course, they may be unpalatable to the opponents of Labour both inside and outside this Chamber. I know that the performances and progress of the Labour Government anger and annoy hon. members opposite—(Opposition laughter)—but they cannot get away from facts and figures which speak for themselves. Hon. members are compelled to accept them, and

when they are compared with their own record one can fully appreciate their feelings.

Another very important matter that has assisted greatly in the improvement of the unemployed figures of Queensland is the building trade. The building trade plays a large and important part in the employment of the working class. It has been estimated that for every £100 expended on buildings, or any structural project, approximately £80 is expended directly or indirectly in wages directly in the building or indirectly in allied trades. The certificates of building operations in Brisbane and eleven other towns in the State reveal that the value of the building permits, including Governmental operations, for the period January-June, 1934, increased as compared with the same period in 1932 by no less than 75.07 per cent. That is a striking advance, and is indicative of the assistance rendered by the present Government to ameliorate unemployment in Queensland and provide, as the Premier stated at the first meeting of Premiers after he was elected to his important office, work and wages for that section of our citizens who had neither. The actual figures disclosing the value of building permits for 1930 and 1934 are very interesting. After the Moore Government were elected in 1929 the value of building permits commenced to fall rapidly.

From January to June, 1930, the figures were £878,917; for the same period of 1931 the figures were £610,428; and for the corresponding period of the last unhappy year of that ruinous Government the figures had fallen to £550,875. It is clear from those figures that Moore and misery went together. Immediately the Labour Government were entrusted with the political destinies of Queensland, the figures began to move upwards to £640,171 in 1933, and £929,407 in 1934. The lastmentioned figure is £50,000 higher than the best figure of the Moore Government's period, and shows an increase of approximately £400,000 when compared with the worst figure for that Government. Is it any wonder that the Moore party to-day is lost in the political wilderness without any hope of finding a way out? Is it any wonder that we find hon. members opposite quibbling regarding the expenditure of loan money for building activities that will provide employment for the men of our community?

Recently the Leader of the Opposition said that the spending of loan money was a drift. Such a remark is significant of what the unemployed of Queensland could have expected had the Moore party been returned in 1932. Fortunately, unemployment to-day is considerably reduced, and that reduction is attributable to the efforts of the present Premier at the first Premiers' Conference which he attended after his return at the head of the Government. It will be remembered that the Premier forced upon that conference a policy which tended to uplift not only the people of Queensland but the people of Australia. The Premier very effectively destroyed the policy of the Lyons Government, and every other Tory Government in Australia, that had resulted in starvation and privation for the people generally.

So far as unemployment is concerned, the present Government have an honourable

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and encouraging record. To-day we are able to report that the percentage of unemployed in the State is 12.7, as compared with 19.7 in 1932. The respective figures are 26,640 and 38,320, which represent a reduction of 11,680. When considering unemployment figures we must not overlook the fact that each year approximately 2,640 young men and women are leaving our schools and have to be absorbed in the working life of the community. The figures which I have given are not my own, but are taken from the Queensland "Economic News," which is edited by Mr. Brigden.

Compare that record with that of the previous Government who were elected on the unemployment issue and on the promise to provide £2,000,000 for 10,000 jobs. Very clearly do I recollect the political catch cries and speeches of the party opposite, "Elect us and we will correct this evil of unemployment. We will find employment for our unemployed men and women, for we will make available £2,000,000 for 10,000 jobs." Let us analyse the position to see how the policy of deflation adopted by the Moore Government, who were elected by playing on the feelings of the unfortunate unemployed section of our community, "corrected" the unemployment position. At the commencement of the Moore Government's regime, in 1929, the percentage of unemployed in the State was 7.1, but that figure had increased to 19.7 when they were driven from office in 1932. That is how the Moore Government solved the unemployment problem. Yet we find hon. members opposite quibbling about the expenditure of loan money for building activities that will create work for the unemployed. In addition to reducing the number of unemployed, the present Government have been pleased to make available large sums of money to relieve the distress among those unemployed at present.

In the first months of their career the Government decided that single men who were unemployed should not be compelled to walk long distances for rations as they were forced to do during the term of office of the Moore Government. They also made available £200,000 for married relief workers by raising their daily rate to the equivalent of the basic wage rate, which meant an additional 2s. 6d. per day. They also made available the sum of £260,000 for the benefit of unemployed single men in our community who, during the term of office of the previous Government, were ostracised by society. In addition to this very valuable assistance the Government were pleased to make available the sum of £50,000 for winter relief for our unemployed men and women. In 1932 a revival loan of £940,000 was obtained for unemployment relief, and out of the relief loan £200,000 was allocated to road works throughout the State and £190,000 for rural development works. I am sure the importance of that work will not be questioned by any member in this House.

I also refer the House to this paragraph from His Excellency's Speech—

"The aggregate amount of Government funds, through which employment has been promoted either directly or indirectly, expended during the past financial year totals £4,921,476, as compared with £4,610,184 during 1932-33, and £2,602,020 during 1931-32."

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A comparison of those figures will indicate what the Government have done and intend to do for the unemployed class. A real attempt has been made to treat the unemployed as human beings and to consider their conditions in terms of human welfare. It would appear from the methods adopted and the conditions prevailing during the regime of the Moore Government that such persons were regarded as impersonal units rather than men and women of flesh and blood, with hopes, fears, and desires like the rest of humanity. Labour immediately stopped this incipient denial of their humanity and their human rights, and their value to society. The Government are to be congratulated on their policy with regard to the unemployed of our State. Their unflagging devotion to this—their supreme task—is visible in more than one direction. Apart from what they have done for the unemployed by way of extra relief, many administrative acts have assisted the unemployed in country districts. I refer first of all to the care of the unemployed families on the banana settlements in various localities, to the short term advances to necessitous cotton growers in the Upper Burnett and Callide Valleys; to their assistance to the tobacco growers in the northern and southern parts of the State; to their establishment of the farm training schools and the scheme for the rural training direct by the farmer; to their advances of £366,585 to land holders under the rural loans development scheme; to the expenditure of £1,078,687 on main roads in all parts of the State, roads which will ease the farmer's burden in many ways and reduce his cost of transportation. I refer to the advances of £261,567 to meet the needs of primary producers, and the promotion of rational schemes for the organised marketing of primary products. It can be definitely stated the Government have assisted all sections of the community irrespective of the class or locality. It is as a result of the policy put into effect by the present Government that confidence has been restored. The Government possess the confidence of the people, and I am hopeful that their efforts during the next year will be accompanied by still greater successes than those achieved in the past.

Before I conclude, I wish to state I am very pleased that the Government have been able to refund in full the contributions made by the railway employees to the ill-advised and actuarially unsound superannuation scheme of the Moore-Morgan Government, which stands as a blot on the legislative history of Queensland. During the past two years Queensland has been rescued from pending financial and industrial disaster. With the advent of the present Government disappeared that misery which everywhere prevailed in this State. Unemployment has been reduced and business activities have improved. To-day Queensland has the highest basic wage, the highest effective wage, the shortest working week, the lowest cost of living, and the lowest number of unemployed.

Again I congratulate the Government on their excellent record, and trust that they will pursue their policy of progress with the greatest success.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

Mr. HAYES (*Nundah*) [3.25 p.m.]: I have much pleasure in seconding the motion which has been so ably moved by the hon. member for South Brisbane. At the outset I desire to congratulate the Premier on his having regained his usual good health. In addition, I also wish to congratulate him on the successes achieved in his mission abroad. It was considered by the Government that the Premier should proceed overseas in order to obtain firsthand information to enable Queensland to further its facilities for trading. This House will, no doubt, at a later date, hear much and learn much from the Premier as a result of that mission. It was productive of results in the direction of seeing to it, at least, that it would not be necessary further to restrict the production of our industries and that so far as the Ottawa Agreements were concerned any further restrictions would be impossible. During the past few months we have heard much from people in the Southern States and members of Tory Administrations throughout Australia to the effect that the method of making for the employment of our people was by the restriction of production. That is certainly not the attitude of Labour Governments. We find evidence, even in the leading Tory press in Queensland, that this State has been singled out to carry the burden. Our primary products, some of them peculiar to Queensland—i.e., tobacco, pineapples, cotton, sugar, bananas, and peanuts—were each attacked in turn. During the Scullin Government's regime the Australian tobacco industry received protection, or at least a measure of protection, in so far as the duty on tobacco was increased from 2s. 8d. to 5s. 2d. per lb. The result was that 5,000 additional persons became tobacco growers in Australia. In Queensland, at that time, we had 2,250 growers. It is worthy of note that the production increased from 1,000,000 lb. in 1927-28 to 10,000,000 lb. in 1931-32. On their advent to power the Lyons Government reduced by 2s. 2d. per lb. the protection that had been afforded by the Scullin Government, but in December, 1933, apparently thinking they had cut a little too deep, they increased the duty by 6d. per lb. The excise duty was increased from 2s. 4d. per lb. to 4s. 6d. per lb., and generally the taxation imposed upon the industry, which stood at £6,000,000 in 1928-29, was increased to £8,000,000 in 1933-34. Following the tariff reductions 400 growers went out of production in twelve months. That is one industry that has been detrimentally affected.

Let us now turn our attention to the pineapple industry. The bungling on the part of Mr. S. M. Bruce and Sir Harry Gullett at the Ottawa Conference was responsible for this industry receiving a heavy setback. An arrangement had been entered into between the Scullin Labour Government and the Government of Canada whereby the latter would extend a preference to Australian (including Queensland) pineapple products. Canada imports yearly approximately 20,000,000 lb. of canned pineapples, which include 180,000 cases of high class pineapples and 600,000 cases of an inferior grade. Originally Canada's source of supply of high class pineapples was Hawaii, the cheaper grades coming from Singapore. Following the agreement entered into between the Scullin Government and the Canadian Government Queensland received a substantial preference over

all other canned pineapple producers. The agreement provided for a duty of 1 cent per lb. on Australian pineapples, 3 cents per lb. on other British fruit (which included Singapore), and 5 cents per lb. on foreign fruit (which included pineapples from Hawaii). Having regard to the normal rate of exchange, the rates per dozen tins would be:—

	s.	d.
Australia	0	10
Singapore	2	6
Hawaii	4	2

During the "life" of the agreement which the Canadian Government arrived at through the then Minister for Markets, Mr. Parker Moloney, the total amount of pineapples sent to Canada was 3,664,000 lb. That was the amount exported to Canada during the three and a-half months that the agreement was in operation prior to its cancellation by the Ottawa Agreement in October 1932. Compare the figure 3,664,000 lb. with 366,814 lb., the latter being the amount exported for the year ended 31st March, 1931!

The Labour Government in Queensland have always assisted returned soldiers by making land available for pineapple growing. They have also been assisted to embark upon the production of tomatoes. Returned soldiers were assisted in the production of sugar cane at El Arish, and wonderful assistance was also extended to the tobacco-growers at Mareeba. The Nationalists, or the Tories, or by whatever name they are styled, have at all times claimed a monopoly of loyalty, but what did they care whether the returned soldiers were being harassed by the depredations of a Federal Nationalist Government? Apparently the Federal Nationalist Government were determined to concentrate upon Queensland because a Labour Government controlled the destinies of this State. They were prepared to single this State out for a campaign of victimisation, and it is little wonder that the chief Nationalist paper in Queensland, in a leading article of 4th October, 1932, was constrained to write as follows:—

"Yesterday it was announced by Mr. Gullett, in his speech on the Ottawa Agreement, that the Federal Government had decided to reduce the duty on Fiji bananas from 8s. 4d. per cental to 2s. 6d. per cental, and to allow the importation of 40,000 centals a year."

Yet another Queensland industry was destined for the Federal axe. To Fiji was given the right to export 40,000 centals of bananas per annum to Australia. The chief Nationalist newspaper in Queensland in the same leading article referred to above also said—

"The attacks on Queensland's agricultural industries have become so frequent that one is forced to the conclusion that the Federal Government is absolutely ignorant of Queensland conditions. It does not realise that Queensland is the only State which is carrying on tropical agriculture to any great extent. That ignorance has led the Federal Government to believe that 'Queensland's industries do not count,' and that whether that hurts the State or not does not matter so long as the South is appeased."

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That followed upon the many incursions that were previously made into the vital industries of this State. Those facts provide excellent reasons why Labour strongly advised the electors to relegate into obscurity the present Federal Government, who were responsible for putting these monstrous things into effect.

I am sure that the people of Queensland hold very firm convictions that Labour is the only party capable of still carrying further into effect the promises made to them two years ago. I intend to make an interesting comparison in respect of the conditions obtaining at the end of the term of the Moore Government in regard to the credit balances at the Treasury and the figures relating to unemployment. It will be recollected that when Labour was defeated in 1929 there was left for the incoming Government something in the vicinity of £5,000,000 in the Treasury; but on Labour assuming the control of the Treasury benches in 1932 it was found that the handsome credit balance of £900,000 was left for them! The present Government also found that record deficits and a record number of unemployed had been bequeathed to them. It was the duty and task of Labour to do all in its power to find work for those people. When Labour went out of office in 1929 the percentage of unemployed was 7.6 per cent; but on assuming office again in 1932 an analysis of the figures disclosed that these figures had increased to 19.9 per cent. Much has been done since that time by the Government to provide employment for the workless. It became the bounden duty of the Government to stimulate the State's works programme, and otherwise do everything that was in their power to place as many of the unemployed back at work as was possible. By sheer pertinacity of purpose this has, in the main, been accomplished. The figure of 19.9 per cent. has been reduced to 12.7 per cent. Soon after the present Government assumed office, Commonwealth figures disclosed that as a result of their sympathetic policy towards the workless in Queensland, 500 unemployed were crossing the border monthly from neighbouring States. The influx of unemployed became so great that the Secretary for Labour and Industry found it necessary to promulgate a regulation providing for a residential qualification in connection with his department's system of relief. A further important fact worthy of consideration is that each month in Queensland 220 young men attained the age of eighteen years and were added to the number of unemployed. In two years by this means alone 5,200 young men became added to the total unemployed. Yet, in the face of these facts, the percentage of unemployed has been reduced by the Government to that remarkable extent!

Queensland is a most prosperous State, and the best of all States in the Commonwealth. She possesses the highest wages of any State, as well as the greatest percentage of her workers in employment. Investigation will also prove that the increase in the bank deposits and credits have very largely been brought about by the humane legislative and administrative policy of the Government. I am sure that it is only a matter of a few weeks when we shall have a sympathetic Labour Government in power in the Federal sphere, and that the time will not be far distant when Labour will be able to say that

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unemployment is something which can and will be abolished from this fair land of Australia.

GOVERNMENT MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

Mr. MOORE (*Aubigny*): I move the adjournment of the debate.

Question put and passed.

Resumption of debate made an Order of the Day for to-morrow.

SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT.

The PREMIER (Hon. W. Forgan Smith, *Mackay*): I move—

"That the House, at its rising, do adjourn until 10 o'clock a.m. to-morrow."

Question put and passed.

The House adjourned at 3.43 p.m.